

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An acrylic rubber composition comprising:

(A) 100 parts by weight of an acrylic rubber comprising

80 to 99.9% by weight of units of at least one ~~kind of~~ monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid ester monomers and methacrylic acid ester monomers, and

0.1 to 20% by weight of units of a monoester of an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic dicarboxylic acid monomer having 3 to 11 carbon atoms with an alkanol having 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

(B) 5 to 200 parts by weight of synthetic silica having a BET specific surface area of not larger than 200 m²/g, and

(C) 0.05 to 20 parts by weight of a polyamine compound crosslinking agent, and

(D) 5 to 200 parts by weight of aluminum silicate containing at least 5% by weight of Al₂O₃ wherein the total amount of Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ is at least 60% by weight based on the aluminum silicate.

2. (currently amended) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the units of acrylic acid ester monomers comprise[[s]]

30 to 100% by weight of units of at least one ~~kind of a monomer selected from the group consisting of~~ ester monomer[[s]] of acrylic acid with an alkanol having 1 to 8 carbon atoms and

0 to 70% by weight of units of at least one ~~kind of a monomer selected from the group consisting of~~ ester monomer[[s]] of acrylic acid with an alkoxyalkyl alcohol having 2 to 8 carbon atoms; and

the units of methacrylic acid ester monomers comprise[[s]]

30 to 100% by weight of units of at least one ~~kind of a monomer selected from the group consisting of~~ ester monomer[[s]] of methacrylic acid with an alkanol having 1 to 8 carbon atoms and

0 to 70% by weight of units of at least one ~~kind of a monomer selected from the group consisting of~~ ester monomer[[s]] of methacrylic acid with an alkoxyalkyl alcohol having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic silica has an average particle diameter in the range of 7 to 70 nm ~~and a BET specific surface area of not larger than 200 m²/g.~~

5. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic silica has a pH value of not larger than 9.

6. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic silica is a calcined silica product prepared by heating wet process silica.

7. (original) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 6, wherein the calcined silica product is prepared by heating process silica at a temperature in the range of 500 to 1,000°C for 30 to 120 minutes.

8. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 6, wherein the calcined silica product has not more than three silanol groups/nm² on the surface thereof.

9. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 6, wherein the calcined silica has an average particle diameter in the range of 1 to 10 μm and a BET specific surface area in the range of 20 to 200 m²/g.

10. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 6, wherein the calcined silica product exhibits a loss on heating of not larger than 2% by weight.

11. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 6, wherein the calcined silica product has a pH value of not more than 9.

12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, ~~claim 12~~, wherein the ratio of the content of SiO_2 to the content of Al_2O_3 is in the range of 18/1 to 1/1 by weight.

14. (cancelled).

15. (currently amended) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, ~~claim 14~~, which further comprises 0.1 to 20 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the acrylic rubber, of a crosslinking accelerator having a base dissociation constant in the range of 10^{-12} to 10^6 as measured in water at a temperature of 25°C .

16. (previously presented) The acrylic rubber composition according to claim 1, which further comprises 0.1 to 10 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the acrylic rubber, of a silane coupling agent.

17. (previously presented) A crosslinked object made by crosslinking the acrylic rubber composition as claimed in claim 1.